

CLAIMS:

1. A pectin comprising a galacturonic acid of from 70 to 90 mole % as a constituent sugar, and wherein the molecular weight measured by the gel filtration chromatography is in the range of 1×10^4 to 5×10^7 and the peak molecular weight is in the range of 2×10^5 to 1×10^7 .
2. The pectin according to claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of the constituent sugars of a galacturonic acid : arabinose : galactose : glucuronic acid : glucose : xylose : rhamnose : mannose : fructose is 7 to 9 : 0.4 to 0.7 : 0.4 to 0.6 : 0.1 to 0.6 : 0.05 to 0.5 : 0.04 to 0.4 : 0 to 0.1 : 0 to 0.08 : 0 to 0.05.
3. The pectin according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pectin is separated and recovered from the culture or the culture broth obtained by culturing a *Nigella* plant cell.
4. The pectin according to claim 3, wherein the *Nigella* plant is *Nigella damascena* or *Nigella sativa*.
5. Use of the pectin as described in any one of claims 1 to 4 as a moisturizer.
6. A cosmetic material containing the pectin as described in any one of claims 1 to 4.

7. A process for preparing the pectin as described in any one of claims 1 to 4, which comprises separating and recovering the pectin as described in any one of claims 1 to 4 from the culture or the culture broth obtained by culturing the *Nigella* plant cell.